

(7)

# A Defence of Electrolysis in Urethral Strictures,

WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

BY ROBERT NEWMAN, M.D.

NEW YORK,

Surgeon-in-Chief, Northwestern Dispensary, N. Y. Consulting  
Surgeon, Harkness & Hospital; Honorary Member  
of the County Medical Society, etc.

Reprinted from THE HYGIENIC JOURNAL, January 1, 1897

PHILADELPHIA.

RECORDED, MUMFORD & CO., LIMITED.

1898.







# A DEFENCE OF ELECTROLYSIS IN URETHRAL STRICTURES, WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

BY ROBERT NEWMAN, M.D.,

NEW YORK.

Professor of Northwestern Dispensary, N. Y.; Consulting Surgeon  
The Knickerbocker Hospital; Honorary Member, United States Society  
Medical Jurists, etc.

THE object of this paper is to review some recent failures in the treatment of urethral strictures alleged to have been conducted according to the electrolytic method.

Electrolysis is recognized and laid down, in standard works on elementary physics, and in text books on chemistry, as an action of a certain form of electricity, based on physical laws.

I have applied it, according to my own method, successfully to the treatment of urethral strictures for the last nineteen years. Which method is now adopted by a host of medical gentlemen in all parts of the world, who are on record as successful operators; a long list of whom was given in the *New England Medical Monthly*, December, 1887. New and successful operators are constantly being added to the army already in the field, among whom may be mentioned Drs. E. E. Smith, of Connecticut; R. W. St. Clair, Brooklyn; J. H. Kellog, Michigan; F. Swinford Edwards, London, Eng.; G. W. D. Patterson, Georgia; T. H. Burchard, New York; J. J.

Berry, New Hampshire; Chambers, Remond and Rohé, Baltimore; A. F. Sampson, Texas.

With such evidence from at home and abroad it is no longer a question as to the recognition or success of the method. The only open point is, what is necessary to constitute a successful operator. For that, it is an absolute necessity to be an electrician and a genito-urinary surgeon. Whoever is deficient in either or both of these requirements will be very liable to fail.

Since this method has been generally known, electrodes have been sold by the thousand; many bought by men wholly unprepared to handle them. Under such circumstances it is truly surprising that we have not heard of more failures. Upon investigation, unsuccessful operators usually turn out to be those who are utterly unable to handle the instruments, and are especially ignorant of the laws of electricity. In their reports we generally find that they bought the instruments just for the occasion; and, without any previous practice, began to operate. Usually such reports read: "By this time I had received my electrolytic battery and electrodes, and went to work at once on the patient." In one instance of reported failure I inquired about the operator, privately, and received from one of his intimates the following report: "He thinks the doctor probably never treated a case of stricture by electrolysis; he visits him frequently, and never knew of his possessing any other electric instrument than a faradic battery, made by Kidder."

From such sources nothing but failures can be expected. Objections made to the operation have

been proven to be without foundation. As far as possible, I have frequently explained the reasons why some men failed, in which I have been ably assisted by others. I refer to Dr. Meier's article in the *International Journal of Surgery and Anæsthetics*, October, 1888. Why Electrolytic Treatment of Stricture Does Not Succeed in All Hands, also to my former articles.

Of late, several failures have been reported in verbiage articles, which are so thoroughly similar in style that it seems as if the same brain had guided the pen. It seems like an organized attack on my method, from New York City only.

I would not have noticed these articles, as I have shown the causes of failures before, and cannot go over the same ground in reply to old objections dressed in new clothes. But these articles so closely resemble a personal attack, and the conclusions therein—against evidence and natural laws—are so artfully drawn as to be likely to mislead the public that I am impelled to reply. Moreover, in this age of journalistic enterprise such articles are by reprints or in abstract, sown broadcast, and readers are either led astray or put in doubt as to what is truth, and what is not, by dishonest reports concealed with subtle reasoning:

First, came skirmishing reports of single cases, unimportant notices from unknown authors. Then appeared an elaborate article: The Limitation of Electrolysis as a Therapeutic Agent in Organic and Spasmodic Stricture of the Urethra, with Cases; by F. Tilden Brown, A.M., M.D., *Journal of Cutaneous and Genitourinary Diseases*, July and August, 1888. And lastly, the attack was crowned with a paper, read by Dr. E. L. Keyes before the meeting of the Genito-

Urinary Surgeons, in Washington: The Curability of Urethral Strictures by Electricity—An Investigation (*New York Medical Journal*, October 6, 1888). In that article the author agrees with everything said by Dr. F. Tilden Brown, relates the management of seven cases which he selected especially for his investigation, in all of which electrolysis was made to fail, draws therefrom conclusions to suit his purpose, and closes by saying that if successes have been reported by others, they are all due either “to the combined credulity of the patient and imagination of the surgeon or to some special but fortuitous aid of Providence, etc.”

Thoughtful readers will hardly be apt to accept such a hodgepodge, even though an irreverent reference to the Deity is combined therewith, as the result of a careful, honest, scientific investigation.

As soon as my health permitted, I replied to Dr. Keyes' article. In a correspondence (*Medical Record*, November 24, 1888) I showed my connection with the cases 8 and 9. In one the patient was not under my control, was withdrawn before I had opportunity to complete his treatment, against my protest and in violation of Dr. Keyes' written promise. The other, a very bad case, was improved by me in a few sittings, then for good reasons dismissed, and sent by me to Dr. Keyes.

My connection with these cases will be better understood from an article, by Dr. Dickson, in the *New England Medical Monthly*, December, 1888. A review of Dr. Keyes' article of investigation somewhat in detail has been made by me in a contribution, which appeared in the *Philadelphia Medical Times*, December 15, 1888, to which I also refer.



My conclusions based on the evidence in Dr. Keyes' report, are as follows:

Two cases, Nos. 1 and 2, were not treated according to my rules, as the electrodes used in the beginning were too large, and not in proportion to the stricture.

One case, No. 3, force was used, and the electrode, by mistake, was No. 21 instead of 12.

Two cases, No. 5 and 7, had only one electric application, therefore cannot be used as a test case against any method.

One case, No. 4, is doubtful throughout, as it is not shown *how* urethral fever and chill were caused.

One case, No. 6, is permanently cured, but considered by Dr. Keyes as a spasm, while he himself had selected the case as a test in "organic" stricture. Total, seven cases.

Cases 8 and 9 have been mentioned before. And such is the investigation by a gentleman who is not an expert in electricity, bought the instruments for his experimental investigation, and himself confesses, in a correspondence, January 21, 1888, that he "still looks looks upon the possible radical cure with incredulity."

Review of Dr. F. Tilden Brown's paper:

The author read his paper, *The Limitation of Electrolysis as a Therapeutic Agent in Organic and Spasmodic Stricture of the Urethra, with Cases* (*Journal of Cutaneous and Genitourinary Diseases*, July and August, 1888) at the Surgical Section of the New York Academy of Medicine (by the courtesy of the chairman, Dr. R. F. Weir. I had the opportunity to be present on that occasion, and to take part in the discussion). The author, in a lengthy paper compiled much of the literature on the subject, criticises

the reports of successful operators, according to his views, tries very hard to make an experiment in which electrolysis will not work, and winds up with some cases, in which he seeks to show that electrolysis is a failure. He bases some of his arguments on what Dr. Keyes has said and done, while Dr. Keyes, in his paper, refers to and sticks to all Dr. F. Tilden Brown stated. While the paper is an excellent literary production, it has statements and conclusions, which are not in conformity with the present state of experience and acknowledged laws of electricity. That paper has been answered, some points shown to be erroneous, and its conclusions to be inaccurate, by Dr. Bryce, in *Southern Clinic*, and by Dr. G. C. H. Meier (*The International Journal of Surgery and Antiseptics*, October, 1888). Other points I now review: The title of the paper is in itself perplexing, if not misleading, by speaking of Electrolysis in Organic and Spasmodic Stricture of the Urethra. A spasmodic stricture, is an ill-advised expression: Since mere spasmodic action *is never* a stricture; and electrolysis will not cure or even benefit a spasm, but, on the contrary, may cause a spasmodic action, thereby making passage of the instrument impossible.

In all my writings, I have spoken only of the success of electrolysis in organic stricture. It has been proven that a spasm may be cured by the faradic current, but never by the galvanic. It is, therefore, very unfortunate for the author of the paper to say, that any benefit by electrolysis in strictures was only derived in spasmodic strictures.

Dr. Brown, early in his paper, describes the first attempt in electrolysis, by Crussel and Wertheimer,

as the period of electrolysis by a strong potential cautery, but soon follows by saying: "Dr. R. Newman claims to have made practicable the use of electrolysis as tried and abandoned by Crussel and Wertheimer." As Dr. Brown describes my method so well in detail as a new epoch, as the treatment with weak currents, he certainly knows that I did not take up any abandoned method with strong cauterization. Does not such a statement look like a misrepresentation made for a purpose? I deny having taken up any abandoned method, and claim to have originated my own method, and devised for such entirely new instruments, which at the present time, in their perfected state, are free to the profession.

Next, I find my definition of electrolysis ridiculed by Dr. Brown. My defence is, that in order to be brief and correct, this definition is a quotation from "Webster's Unabridged," consequently the Doctor must fight it out with Webster.

If we review the management of Dr. Brown's cases, which he wisely styles as "experimented with electricity," we find that failures were inevitable, as he did not follow my rules. One of these is distinctly given and insisted on, as during one *séance* two electrodes (or instruments) should never be used. Now, let us see how Dr. Brown observes this rule.

In Case I., on February 12, after a preliminary introduction of instruments and small sounds, a 15 Fr. bougie, a-boule, shows strictures. Then he began the treatment with electrolysis, with (1) a No. 18 Fr. electrode for ten minutes, five milliamperes; (2) No. 16 electrode for eight minutes, passing instrument *to and fro*, (3) No. 17; (4) No. 18, and (5) No. 15 in-

strument. Five instruments were passed, after other preliminary instruments; one was passed to and fro, all in violation of my rules, and ought not to be cited as a case treated according to my method.

CASE 11. At its first sitting three instruments were introduced, No. 18, bulb; No. 17, sound to bladder, and a No. 18 electrode—for twenty-three minutes.

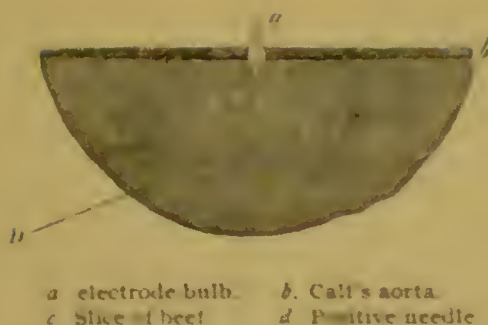
*March 4.* Three instruments were introduced, No. 17, 21, and 18.

*March 18.* Three instruments 18, 15, and 18 again were introduced at one sitting.

Bad results, and nothing else could be expected after such treatment.

*Dr. Brown's experiment in Electrolysis* may impose upon the innocent youth, who is ignorant of elementary laws in electricity, but they are only amusing to the expert, who knows that a dead dry body is no electrolyte.

This practical test was in reality theoretical, "all meat sandwich" experiment was as follows: On top of a piece of raw beef and close to it was placed a dry piece of calf's aorta, a small hole was punched through the aorta, through which hole an electrode metallic bulb was passed, so that the thick part of the bulb filled up the hole, and the point rested on the beef. Then the negative pole was attached to a galvanic battery and the circuit closed,



by a pair of platinum needles thrust as positive pole into the underlying meat slice, a current of six milli-amperes is turned on, and after one or two hours the hole in the aorta is not enlarged. Then the experimenter tells the assemblage, "I cannot see that there is any change in the elasticity of the aorta tissue," and continues to argue that his experiment proves that electrolysis is a myth, and that a cure of urethral stricture by it never takes place. Of course the hole was not enlarged, neither could it be expected according to the laws of electricity.

An explanation is scarcely needed to show the fallacy of the argument, and the so-called experiment. I mention it here only to make my statement complete. The experimenter speaks about electrolysis as if it is an innovation, whereas it has been known as a fact, and explained even in many very old text books. As Dr. Brown ridiculed Webster's explanation, let me quote this time from Neil & Smith Compendium, which every medical student knows. In the part of Chemistry, page 610, we find: "The electrodes or poles of a battery are the points of the circuit, where the electrical phenomena are manifested. The decomposition of a fluid by galvanic action is



termed electrolysis : and the *liquids* which are capable of being thus acted on are named electrolytes." This quotation is taken from the edition of 1861, and will suffice for our purpose, while many more can be given, even to the time of Faraday. It is also a fact, that Nicholson first electrolysed water in 1800 into oxygen and hydrogen (Munch edition, 1873.) Not every substance is an electrolyte or can be subject to an electrolytic decomposition ; for instance, an element cannot be further subdivided, and, therefore, no electrolysis is possible. In order to be an electrolyte, certain conditions are necessary. It must first be a compound body. It is not the place here to explain all the properties in extenso, and the simplest explanation is that in order to have an electrolyte, it must contain water and salt, be a compound. Most of the tissues of the human body have the properties of an electrolyte, and therefore electrolysis of urethral strictures has been done successfully. If we try electrolysis on a piece of raw meat, which is a poor electrolyte compared to the live human body, but nevertheless if it be not entirely dried up, the properties of an electrolyte are present and we have a compound body, in a moist state. In the experiment of Dr. Brown the effect of electrolysis was plainly to be seen, by the darkened color in a certain radius around "C" beneath the bulb of the electrode, which had softened the muscular fibre. All this was observed by many gentlemen present that evening, among whom was the chairman of the section. No better experiment is wanted to confirm the theories, on which I have based my method and the success of electrolysis. But, alas! did Dr. Brown really expect an enlargement of the

hole in the piece of dried aorta of a dead calf? Nobody would, because a dry dead aorta is no electrolyte; it had neither moisture or other qualities to make it such, it could not be electrolysed. An accomplished literary gentleman like Dr. Brown I would not accense of ignorance on a subject so well understood, but I must protest against the argument he made. Why he made it, is best known to himself. To some of his conclusions I must demur as dangerous.

1. "That it encourages patience and gentleness." As if gentleness and patience are not necessary in any operation, as if the promoters of other methods have never exercised it. I think this conclusion wrongs many surgeons who practice other methods.

2. "It overcomes spasmodic strictures." In reality such a thing as spasmodic stricture does not exist, it is a mi-nomer, and I have often demonstrated that electrolysis will never overcome a urethral spasm, but may create it. If electricity can overcome a spasm, the Faradic current must be employed.

3. Advises the employment of electrolysis on theoretical grounds after the whole paper was nothing else than a tirade against electrolysis, just on theoretical grounds.

4. Advises electrolysis against frequent and painful micturition.

Why this advice is given, I cannot understand. My experience is, that under such circumstances, electrolysis is contraindicated; will increase irritation, thereby making matters worse.

The reader can easily form his opinion as to the value of conclusions, mostly resting upon a literary production with very slight practical experience, in

which the treatment was not carried out with care, but in direct violation of rules recommended by experts; and lastly, on an experiment conducted to such a degree against all laws of elementary physics and chemistry, as to be best termed a roaring farce.

All these seeming negatives, prove nothing, but may influence some minds, thus injure a good cause. "Let justice prevail, though the heavens fall," is an old saying, and with the Mahamadens, I say, "So let it be." To that end I append the experience of other physicians than myself.

New reports of successful operations and opinions by others.

I. From a letter of Dr. F. F. Sanders:

ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY, July 27, 1885.

*Dr. Robert Newman:*

DEAR DOCTOR: Last spring I received a pamphlet citing severe cases of stricture of the urethra treated by you in accordance with the new method of electrolysis. I read it with great pleasure, and made up my mind to try it on the first patient presenting himself to me with that trouble. I did not have to wait long, for in a few days I was consulted by a gentleman who was suffering from chills and fever. I found by questioning him that he had, on the day of his visit to me, been for the ninth time, to Prof. Keyes' office for treatment of a stricture. He said the doctor had failed to pass a sound through it, and had never engaged the smallest whalebone filiform into it, and had that day given up his case in disgust. In this state of mind, I spoke to him of the success you had with your method. I proposed a trial, to which he consented. On examination, I found three strictures, located deep in the urethra, two-thirds the distance to the bladder. The first *séance* lasted twenty minutes. I used a No. 8 acorn-shaped bougie. I did not succeed in engaging it. One week later,



with the same sound, the *séance* lasting twenty minutes, I had no better result. Two weeks later, at the third *séance*, I used a straight-end No. 8 instead of the acorn shaped one. In thirty-one minutes it passed through a cork screw stricture one inch and three eighths in length. At the next *séance*, ten days afterward, I passed readily a No. 12 bulb acorn shaped. He has been to me four times since it first passed, and I can at present scarcely feel any of the strictures in passing the sound through them. Now, I should like to know the permanence of the result from your experience.

I wish to state here, that since the stricture was passed he has had no chill or fever, but has rapidly regained his normal weight, one hundred and sixty-five pounds, and feels as well as ever he did in his life. He was about to give up his position on account of his difficulty, but he has now abandoned any such intention. I consider electrolysis one of the greatest additions to this branch of surgery made known for years, and you deserve the thanks of the profession for bringing it before them.

2. Dr. W. F. Hutchinson, of Providence, an acknowledged authority in electricity, says, in his excellent work, recently published ("Practical Electro-Therapeutics," p. 210), as follows:

"Looking over my list of operations, several hundred in number, I see but two that need special description. These two are for urethral stricture and uterine fibroids. The galvanic operation for the former was devised at about the same time, by Dr. Robert Newman and myself, and fully tabulated by Dr. N., who has had large dispensary experience with it, as well as a great number of private cases. Dr. Newman deserves a pioneer's laurels in this new path. . . . But my friends say: 'What is the use of an operation requiring an expert to make it suc-

cessful, and which general practitioners have neither instruments nor knowledge to perform?' There is the very point, and it is to show these friends how easily they may acquire both instruments and skill by following a few straightforward, simple directions that this operation is described in detail. (Description of the *modus operandi*). . . . This is the entire operation, which rarely exceeds seven minutes in length, is effective, and leaves the patient as ready to attend to his daily affairs the moment it is over and thenceforward as he was before, and which would have supplanted the frequently unsatisfactory surgery of urethral stricture long ago, if surgeons clearly understood its performance and appreciated its results."

This practical work on electricity, recently published by Records, McMullin & Co., in Philadelphia, is strongly recommended to the general practitioner, and will be of the greatest benefit to him in his electric pursuits.

Dr. Hutchinson also writes, in private letters:

OCTOBER 15, 1888.

I return the magazine, with many thanks. Reading carefully the article by Dr. Brown, it seems to me that his failures, like every one else's, who has given electrolysis only a superficial study, depended upon his ignorance of electrical technique. I am beginning, do you know, to think that all such operations should be left to experts, and that there is some occult force, with which we are directly acquainted, if at all, that requires long study and manual expertness, that comes only from daily use, to reach.

I operated to-day, with complete success, where one of our best surgeons had failed, using his battery and electrodes. He was completely set back, anticipating my defeat as well as his own. How about Brown's artificial urethra? but it seems to me that we are doing pretty well. Yours, etc.

OCTOBER 22, 1888.

Have just had a good bit of news. A patient, German, rich, etc., was brought to me eighteen months ago with two difficult fibrous strictures, admitting No. 2 French, of ten years' standing. One operation was all that was made, and I saw him to-day, for the first time well happy and admitting No. 27 French, freely. Dr. Anthony, the Secretary of the R. L. Medical Society, brought the patient, and will certify.

Faithfully yours.

3. Dr. W. E. Stevenson, whose authority as an electrician, in London, is acknowledged, and whose successes are recorded, writes also to me, in private letters, from which I cite as follows:

29 WELBECK STREET, LONDON, December 6, 1886.

I can quite endorse what you say about the cause of failure in the electrolysis of strictures. I do not believe it can ever become the universal method of treatment by all practitioners, although no doubt the best—but medical men will never take the necessary trouble, they have not the patience and perseverance, and the operation without care, may fail from so many different causes. I have never had the least hesitation in referring to you as an authority on the permanency of the cure, for every one of your countrymen (and that is not a few), who have visited my electrical department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, have assured me that any statement made by you may be implicitly relied upon.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1888.

DEAR DR. NEWMAN: I am glad to see by the (September 8) number of the *American Medical Journal* that you have answered the very weak criticism of Dr. Thomas. I had almost thought of writing an answer myself, but it is much better answered by you. I wrote a long paper on the treatment of stricture of the urethra by electrolysis, in the July number of the *Provincial Medical Journal*, published at Leicester, in

this country. In referring to my cases of stricture of the urethra, I find that a large number of patients cease to attend, and are satisfied when the calibre of their urethra is enlarged to No. 22, French, which corresponds to about No. 12 on the English scale. It is impossible to keep either private or hospital patients on as long as one would wish. . . .

I remain, etc.

39 WELBECK STREET, LONDON, November 18, 1886.

DEAR DOCTOR NEWMAN: I have seen the attack of Dr. Keyes on the electrolysis of strictures. . . . I hope you will soon be well again and able to repel the adversary. I have treated so many doctors for strictures (who ought to be good judges), and who say that electrolysis has done them more good than any other form of treatment, that I have not the slightest doubt but that it is superior to all other. In the treatment of stricture by electrolysis certain persons are sure to be more successful than others, as in every other operation that has ever been attempted. Some men invariably fail with the most simple operation. In a delicate operation, such as electrolysis, there are innumerable points, where a man not familiar and experienced in the use of a battery, may make some error. . . . I remain ———.

4. Dr. Sutcliffe, Professor of Surgery in Indianapolis, returned from Europe in November, and says electrolysis in strictures of the urethra is used there successfully. He has spent much of his time with Dr. Edwards, who, formerly a sceptic, is now an enthusiast, and practices electrolysis in urethral strictures with uniform success. His report is on record (*Medical Press and Circular*, April 11, 1888, p. 369).

5. Dr. T. C. McCoy, Fort Worth, Tex., writes:

DEAR DOCTOR: I saw Dr. Keyes' report in the *Medical Record* in regard to a certain case of failure of yours in article one, and your explanation in the number of November 24. I think Dr. K. did you an injustice. I have treated over three hundred cases with electricity successfully in the past three years. Most of my cases are in this State, where I see them occasionally, and they are still well. I think most of the M.D.'s that object to electrolysis don't know anything about it. Yours truly, ———.

6. From a letter of A. P. Sampson, M.D., Galveston:

November 28, 1888.

When I saw the attack made upon the gentleness and valuable gift you bestowed upon the profession I felt sure over it . . . I know too well the animus that actuated Dr. Keyes' article. . . . I send you to-day a reprint of an article I presented to the Texas State Medical Association. . . . I would mention several more interesting cases where nothing else could have been used but electrolysis.

Dr. Sampson's paper, Treatment of Organic Stricture by Electrolysis, was read at Houston, April 21, 1885, before the Texas State Medical Association.

7. Successful cases have been reported by T. H. Burchard, M.D., in *The Medical Record*, June 16, 1888.

8. Remarks of Dr. C. S. Wood, at the meeting of the Northwestern Medical and Surgical Society of New York, April 18, 1888 (*The Medical Record*, June 16, 1888, p. 674).

Dr. Wood was pleased with the favorable consideration given to this subject after the years of criticism and vituperation which had been heaped upon it, especially in this city. Regarding the question of cau-



terization, he recalled a former meeting held in his own house, where Dr. Newman had demonstrated the effect of the current, using cartilage covered with mucous membrane. The cartilage had been dissolved and returned to its original elements, while the mucous membrane had been uninjured. He recalled a case which he had referred to Dr. Newman for treatment. The patient was fifty years of age, the bladder emptied by drops, and a filiform bougie was entered with difficulty. The patient had suffered with chills, and had been disqualified for business for several months. After eight weeks' treatment he was entirely cured, and has had no difficulty since. The speaker had recently referred the question of recurrence to Drs. Bangs and McBurney, at the St. Luke's Hospital. He had asked whether, after division of stricture at one point, there was permanent cure. They had replied that the sound must be passed occasionally for a year, or even during life in some cases. The permanency of the cure by electrolysis was thus in its favor. Electrolysis destroyed the whole of the ring, while internal urethrotomy destroyed it in but one place.

9. Dr. J. J. Berry, Portsmouth, N. H., has recently reported more successful cases (*Southern Medical Record*, page 250), and, in a letter to me, concludes:

SEPTEMBER 13, 1888.

If the process of electrolysis is effective in even one case, it occurs, to a greater or less extent, in all; and I then attribute any partial failure in one of those cases to lack of technical skill and experience rather than to the method itself. Wishing you continued successes, I am ———

10. From a letter of Dr. R. W. St. Clair, Brooklyn, N. Y.:

APRIL 19, 1888

DEAR DOCTOR: For the last five years I have been a follower of yours. I was one of the first to believe in and take up your treatment of urethral stricture. I have read everything from your pen with the greatest care, and have treated some one hundred patients, for stricture, by electrolysis. I have had the best results, and whenever I write up a case, I always give the credit, where it belongs and that is, to Robert Newman, etc.

11. From the eminent leader of the great Sanitarium of Battle Creek, Mich., Dr. J. H. Kellogg. He writes, in a letter

FEBRUARY 9, 1888

DEAR DOCTOR: Please accept thanks for your two valuable papers, just received. I have made use of your method in the treatment of stricture, with good results, and am anxious to try the cauterization method in treating a large prostate, etc.

12. Dr. G. W. D. Patterson, of Atlanta, Ga., writes:

MAY 28, 1888

DEAR SIR: I am using the current quite extensively in my practice. Have, so far, been successful in all cases of stricture treated, etc.

13. Hunne, Bates County, Mo.:

MAY 28, 1888

DEAR DOCTOR: Having found your method of treating urethral strictures by electricity most excellent, etc.

Yours, etc.,

E. N. CHESTNUT, M.D.

14. From a letter of E. L. Stephens, M.D., Silver City, New Mex.

FEBRUARY 12, 1888.

. . . And as I have had such marked success in the treatment of urethral stricture, by your method of electrolysis. I am, etc.

15. Dr. W. C. Wile has given testimony for the success of electrolysis, in a letter sent me, November 26, 1888, in which he says that he had fifty successful cases himself, and has also observed some of my cases. He concludes with a very interesting case and a letter from his patient, who is a physician of repute. This statement is embodied in full in my article, which appeared, December 15, 1888, in the *Philadelphia Medical Times*.

The original letters, to which I have referred above, are all in my possession, and are all of a recent date. I have many more on file.

I have given facts, that the patient reader may draw his own conclusions.

68 WEST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET.





